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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of: )  
Richard P. Lamothe ) Examiner: Kenneth E. Peterson  
for: APPARATUS FOR SLITTING, )  
MERGING AND CUTTING A ) Group Art Unit: 3724  
CONTINUOUS PAPER WEB )  
Serial No.: 10/087,559 )  
Filed: March 1, 2002 ) (Our Docket No.: 4341-0032-1)

Hartford, Connecticut, April 30, 2004

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

S I R:

In response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2004, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. This Response is intended to put this application in condition for allowance if the Examiner considers newly added claims 24-28 allowable over the prior art cited. No new search should be required since all limitations were included in the claims as originally filed, and as originally searched. All claims, including those withdrawn earlier, are presented here. However, claims 1-23 can be cancelled in the event the Examiner finds claims 24-28 to be allowable.